

# Nebraska State Legislature

207159

SENATOR JEANNE M. COMBS

District 32  
679 County Road 600  
Friend, NE 68359

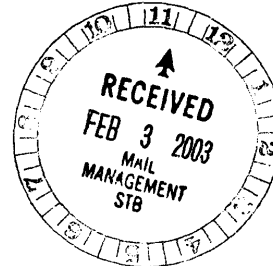
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VIA Certified Mail

## COMMITTEES

Business and Labor  
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
Urban Affairs



January 28, 2003

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20423-0001

**Re: Finance Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 399X)**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to inform you that I have forwarded a copy of my January 13, 2003 letter to Burlington Northern Santa Fe so as to have that letter included on the official record.

I would like to thank Melinda Collins for phoning my office on Monday, January 27, 2003 and informing us of the need to send copies of the letter to all parties in order to have it on record.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne M. Combs".

Senator Jeanne M. Combs  
Nebraska Legislature  
District 32

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

FEB 5 2003

Part of  
Public Record

Nebraska State Legislature  
Unicameral



VIA Overnight Mail

January 13, 2003

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20423-0001

**Re: Finance Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 399X)**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received correspondence from my constituency expressing concerns about the potential loss of rail service in a critical area of my district.

Records indicate that Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) filed the aforementioned application for abandonment with your agency on November 20, 2002. Prior to that, a minimal **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON** was purchased as an advertisement in **THE FAIRBURY JOURNAL-NEWS** at least during the week of October 29, 2002.

Aside from that advertisement, the shippers I have conversed with have verified that they had no contact initiated by BNSF regarding this proceeding explaining any potential alternatives.

On behalf of my constituents, thank-you for issuing the temporary stay in response to the United Transportation Union request. I do not know what response BNSF will send to you by January 17, 2003, but I am hopeful you will require them to undertake at least a 6 month moratorium on any application relating to this trackage.

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Public Record

You need to know, as well, that we stand to be adversely affected in the short and long-term if this critical 10+ mile segment is abandoned. At first blush, simple math tells us the labor costs by BNSF would at a minimum double, because the shippers would have to be served by trains from two different directions. This service is currently conducted by one crew. Some shippers, not only in District 32, but adjoining districts, would be forced to change their shipping routes without any prior explanation by BNSF.

We must take time and review the options available to all parties prior to consummating any short-sighted approach which would affect our communities, the shippers, and workforce.

A six month moratorium is a reasonable alternative to the BNSF application. We are hopeful STB, and BNSF, would be amenable to our logic, and we would look forward to working with BNSF and all parties involved to reach consensus on the future of this line segment.

I am forwarding 10 copies of this letter for filing and a disk in Word format for your inter-office assistance.

Thank you for considering this request on behalf of my constituents in Nebraska Legislative District 32. I look forward to working with all parties.

Should you have additional questions, please contact me.

Respectfully,



Jeanne Combs  
Nebraska State Senator  
District 32

Cc: The Honorable Chuck Hagel, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Ben Nelson, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Tom Osborne, Congressman  
The Honorable Doug Bereuter, Congressman  
The Honorable Mike Johanns, Governor  
The Nebraska Public Service Commission  
Endicott Clay Products  
The Nebraska Feed and Grain Dealers  
The United Transportation Union